[Mr. P. N. Krishna Pillai.]

(*d*) The Member is referred to the answer to part (*a*) above.

Reduction of Work Establishments in the Public Works Department.

260. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : (*a*) Are not the staff and work establishments of the Public Works Department designed for having the work of maintenance of roads, etc., conducted through departmental agency and not through contractors?

(*b*) As most of the works are now done through the agency of contractors, cannot the staff and work establishments be considerably reduced and the savings spent on works?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) No. They are intended for the supervision of works conducted both through departmental and contract agencies.

(*b*) No since supervision is all the more necessary in the case of works done through contract agency.

Separation of Investigation and Works Sections in the Public Works Department.

261. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased, in the interests of more efficient work, to separate the investigation from the works section in the Public Works Department under the same controlling officer, *viz.*, the Chief Engineer, as in British India?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the present strength of the controlling, executive and supervising officers in the Public Works Department is more than sufficient for effecting this separation without additional expense?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The matter will be considered.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Pass System in the General Hospital.

262. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the 'pass system' introduced in the General Hospital; and

(*b*) if so, with what object?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The objects with which the 'pass system' was introduced are—

(1) To prevent people from disturbing the patients as it is a recognised principle in treatment that those who are ill should be kept as quiet as possible and free from all bodily and mental worry.

(2) To allow the hospital staff to examine and nurse the patients without let or hindrance.

(3) To prevent theft of hospital articles and of patients' belongings.

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